

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
*"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"*



Tim Gallagher, Director

December 16, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND  
RECREATION TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR A  
CONSERVATION AGREEMENT WITH SAPPHOS ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. FOR THE  
PALOS VERDES BLUE BUTTERFLY  
AND THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL GNATCATCHER AT  
DEANE DANA FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK  
C.P. No. 86632  
(Fourth District – 3 Vote Matter)**

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION WITH THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER THAT  
YOUR BOARD:**

- 1 Find the preparation of a Conservation Agreement is categorically exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to negotiate and sign an Agreement, following approval as to form by County Counsel, with Sapphos Environmental, Inc. (Sapphos) to provide a Conservation Agreement for the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly and Gnatcatcher at Deane Dana Friendship Community Regional Park (Friendship Park).
3. Approve the attached Appropriation Adjustment to transfer \$96,000 from Capital Project No. 86612 (Refurbishment – Various Mitigation) to Capital Projects No. 86632 (Friendship Park - Mitigation) to fund the preparation of the Conservation Agreement.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OR RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will allow DPR to enter into negotiations and sign an Agreement with Sapphos for the preparation of a Conservation Agreement for the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly and California Coastal Gnatcatcher at Friendship Park.

DPR requires the services of an environmental consulting firm to prepare a Conservation Agreement for the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly and the California Coastal Gnatcatcher at Friendship Park. A preliminary Conservation Agreement was prepared by Sapphos in 1996 in association with a comment letter (September 25, 1995) received from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the original Nature Center Improvement Project at Friendship Park approved and certified by your Board on November 2, 1995. An amendment to the Conservation Agreement, however, is required due to modifications to the nature center project and minor modifications to the restoration plan that resulted from the subsequent Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, which was approved and certified by your Board on October 31, 2000. In recent months there have been two separate sightings of the Gnatcatcher at Friendship Park. The USFWS requires that surveys be conducted to verify the existence of the species on site when sightings have been made.

The proposed amendment will entail site surveys to determine the location of habitats that support the Blue Butterfly and Gnatcatcher, the development of a habitat restoration plan that conforms to USFWS requirements, and an amendment to the Conservation Agreement. The completed Conservation Agreement will be submitted to USFWS for approval prior to submission to your Board for consideration, along with recommendations on the implementation of the mitigation work and the associated funding.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The approval and completion of the Conservation Agreement enhances Service Excellence (Goal 1 of the County's Strategic Plan) by providing the public with easy access to quality information and services that are both beneficial and responsive and Organizational Effectiveness (Goal 3 of the County's Strategic Plan) by ensuring that service delivery systems are efficient, effective and goal-orientated.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The recommended action will increase the appropriation in DPR's Fiscal Year 2003-04 capital projects/refurbishment budget by \$96,000. Upon your Board's approval, the attached appropriation adjustment will transfer \$96,000 of appropriation and net County cost from the Capital Project No. 86612 (Refurbishment – Various Mitigation) to Capital Projects No. 86632 (Friendship Park - Mitigation).

**Operating Budget Impact**

Any one-time start-up or ongoing operating costs resulting from the habitat conservation plan under the Conservation Agreement will be determined upon release of the consultant's findings and recommendations. DPR and the CAO will report any identified ongoing costs to your Board at that time.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Final Environmental Impact Report and original habitat conservation plan for the nature center project were prepared by Sapphos. For purposes of consistency and cost effectiveness, it is recommended that the consultant services agreement for amendment of the Conservation Agreement be awarded to Sapphos.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The approval of this Conservation Agreement is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15306 as information collection and Section 15061(b)(3) since it can be seen with certainty that approval of the Agreement will not impact the environment

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the recommended actions will not impact the park's operations.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Upon approval by your Board, please instruct the Executive Office, Clerk of the Board to forward one (1) conformed copy to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and two (2) conformed copies to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully,



Tim Gallagher  
Director

David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment (1)

c: Executive Office (22)  
County Counsel

BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS  
OFFICIAL COPY

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPT'S. No. 060

DEPARTMENT OF Chief Administrative Office

Dec 9, 2003<sup>19</sup>

## AUDITOR-CONTROLLER.

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. WILL YOU PLEASE REPORT AS TO ACCOUNTING AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

## ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR

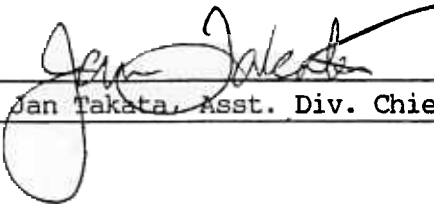
3 - VOTES

FINANCIAL SOURCESCapital Projects/Refurbishments  
Various Facilities  
Refurbishment - Various Mitigation  
Buildings & Improvements  
A01 - CP - 86612 - 6014  
\$96,000 Decrease AppropriationFINANCIAL USESCapital Projects/Refurbishments  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Friendship Park (4)  
~~Nature Center Development~~ Mitigation  
A01 - PK - ~~68951~~ - 6014  
\$96,000 Increase Appropriation

86632

JUSTIFICATION:

Adjustment is necessary to increase appropriation to fund the preparation of a Conservation Agreement for Deane Dana Friendship Community Regional Park.

  
Jan Takata, Asst. Div. Chief CAO

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT


REFERRED TO THE CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR—

ACTION

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

AS REVISED

December 9, 2003   
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERAPPROVED (AS REVISED):  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

19

BY

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

BY

No. 160

DEC 9 2003